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Dear Mr. Chairman Powell,

I am writing to you as a concerned American consumer who is fearful that you will fall prey to a 'smoke screen and mirrors play'. I STRONGLY BELIEVE AND AGREE in the 1996 Telecom Act.

I think it was the best thing that was done to protect the consumer in a very long time. What has happened in the Telecommunications industry was done for greed of pocketbook. Consumers did not do this, Owners, CEO's and stockbrokers did! Don't punish me, the consumer, by allowing the Baby Bell's and their likes in leading you to believe that they are loosing money because of open competition. It's because of their greed and "funny money" - the public's stockholder's equity. The consumer actually gets it twice because of their mismanagement.

I, as an American consumer, want the choice to PICK WHO I SPEND MY HARD EARNED MONEY WITH. Our founding fathers died in giving us our liberal freedom of choice. Don't turn our country and time back 100 years. I sincerely hope that you do the right thing and leave the choice up to the consumer with the companies capable of competition. It is called 'free market'! If AT&T can be broken up - why should the Baby Bells be exempt? They have known this was coming for a long time and been totally unwilling to be cooperative simply because they Do Not want their customer base under fire. To bad, they should have changed their marketing strategy along time ago and ceased overcharging and "srewing" the consumer. It's "our" money!

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Sam Patterson

/SPPjr

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Independent Representative

**EXCEL**

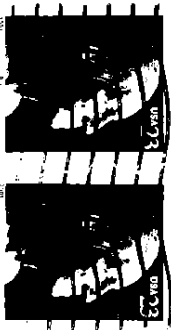
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*Mr. Chairman Powell*

*Federal Communications Commission*

*445 12th St. S.W.*

*Washington, DC*

